



Morristown Muster

November 2016 Newsletter

Greetings!

Thank you for subscribing to Morristown National Historical Park's e-newsletter. We are pleased to keep you connected to your national park.

2016 NEW JERSEY FORUM: *Changing Attitudes Towards Preserving History and the Environment: A Forum Inspired by the National Park Service Centennial*

The 2016 NEW JERSEY FORUM will take place November 18th & 19th at Morristown National Historical Park and the College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown. This year's event will celebrate the National Park Service (NPS) centennial and the state's unique



environmental history, in addition to other aspects of New Jersey's rich and diverse history!

For more information about the forum, including registration information and guest speakers, please visit the New Jersey Historical Commission's [webpage](#) on the event.

Reminder: The Washington's Headquarters Museum, Ford Mansion, and Jockey Hollow Visitor Center are CLOSED on Thanksgiving Day

We want to remind our park patrons that the park's main visitor services at the Washington's Headquarters Museum, the Ford Mansion, and the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center are closed on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24, 2016.

The restrooms located at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center and the New York Brigade will be OPEN.

Patrons are still welcome to walk, hike, or bike the grounds where allowed and all roads will be open. We must admit that a nice walk or hike through Jockey Hollow is a great way to work off those Thanksgiving meals!

Have a great and safe Thanksgiving!

Holly Walk Returns to Morristown!

*Saturday, December 3 & Sunday, December 4
11:00 am to 4:00 pm*

A long-standing and beloved tradition in Morris County is the historic house tour known as "Holly Walk". With one admission ticket visitors can tour five local sites which will be decorated for the holidays. New this year, the event has been expanded from one to two days, and will be held Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4 from 11 am to 4 pm.



Participating sites for Holly Walk include: Acorn Hall, the Ford Mansion, Macculloch Hall, the Schuyler-Hamilton House and the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms.

Each location has been planned special Holly Walk programming just for this weekend.

Additionally, their gift shops will be stocked with unique items for holiday shoppers.

Advanced sale tickets cost \$30 and are available at morristourism.org and at the Morris County Tourism Bureau office, 6 Court Street, Morristown, until Friday, December 2nd. During the weekend of the event the ticket price will rise to \$35. Children 12 and under are free.

For more information, please visit the Morris County Tourism Bureau [website](#).

Selecting the Winter Campsite, November 1779

By: Eric Olsen, Park Ranger/Historian

Nathaniel Greene was tired and frustrated. It was late November 1779 and Greene, the Quartermaster General of the Continental Army, had been searching for a winter campsite for over a month. He wrote: "Never did a person labor more industriously for any purpose than I have to search out a place for hutting the Army, but there are so many circumstances to be taken [into] consideration in the choice of a position that it is exceeding difficult to find one that either pleases myself or will probably please the General [Washington]."



There were a number of things to consider in selecting a winter campsite including: available wood for hut construction and fuel, water, dry ground, houses for the generals, provisions for the soldiers, forage [food] for the horses and cattle, transportation routes, and the security of the camp.

General Greene and a number of assistants surveyed sites all over northern and central New Jersey looking for a site that would suit the army's requirements. But some weren't large enough. Others had ground that was too swampy. Another didn't have enough wood for the army. While one had trees that were too big in diameter to be used in hut construction. Potential camp sites included: Quibbletown, Scotch Plains, Liberty Corners, Basking Ridge, Lincoln Park, Parsippany, Aquakinunk [modern Passaic], and Jockey Hollow.

James Abeel gave this description of the potential camp site in the Morristown area: "...Reviewed the ground back of Mr. Kemble's & find a pretty large spot extending back of the Mountain about two miles & half well covered with Timber & pretty well watered the ground is dry & if the tract is large enough I believe will be the best I have as yet seen..."

By late November the choices were narrowed down to two sites: the land behind Mr. Kembles's [Jockey Hollow] and Great Notch/Aquakinunk [Little Falls]. Alexander Hamilton meeting with General Greene thought Jockey Hollow would be the better campsite because it was further removed from the enemy. Hamilton knew that the army needed a secure campsite because the main army's numbers were diminishing. General Greene agreed and on November 27th wrote to Washington with his suggestion of Jockey Hollow as the winter campsite.

Washington made the final decision on November 30th writing: "From a consideration of all circumstances I am led to decide upon the position back of Mr Kimbles, and more especially, as I think there will be an immediate necessity of sending a further reinforcement to South Carolina; I mean besides the North Carolinians. This, with the diminution of force which will be occasioned by the expiration of enlistments will oblige us to seek a more remote position than we would otherwise have done. You will therefore proceed to laying off the Ground."

After months of searching, debate and waiting, the decision was made. Despite hopes of getting into camp early, it was December and there was already snow on the ground. Now Greene, the Quartermasters and the army had to hurry to get the camp set up and the soldiers under cover before the weather got worse.

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Feel free to contact us with any questions regarding the park or our ranger programs. We can be reached at 973-539-2016 ext.210. Come out and Find Your Park!

Sincerely,

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